

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
(ADA) ADVISORY COUNCIL**

August 1, 2003
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS: Ed Eames, Toni Eames, Bill Hyatt, Marilyn Jost, Vidal Medina, Jan Kafton, Mary Beth Randall, Jose Luis Barraza, Jan Carmichael, Shirley Harper, Carol Casey, Pat Sigala and John Ramirez via Phone.

CITY STAFF: Jon Elam, Stella DuBois-Pantages, Robyn Kale, and Jane Rivas of the Public Works Department, and Perry Stofan of the Convention Center.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Self introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes

The June 20, 2003 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Member Issues Not on Agenda

- " Mary Beth Randell: Kings Canyon/Chestnut and Kings Canyon and Peach report will be submitted at the next meeting of the Advisory Council. Mary Beth also put out a request for any volunteers to assist and Carol Casey offered to help.
- " Ed Eames: Amtrak Station & Renovation of Santa Fe Building and Ed the Advisory Council needs to get involved in that issue with Robb Wood so as to assure that the interior design meets specifications. Also will need to speak to someone about access from the building to the loading platform and make sure it's all covered and the slopes are right for wheelchair accessibility.

Convention Center Updates

Perry Stofan updated the Advisory Council on the process of the signage for the Saroyan Theater. Perry also reported on the hand rail project in the Theater. There is a continual move in attempting to provide accessible seats in the Selland Arena. This type of seating is called "Limited Access Seats" and are available to patrons who have difficulty negotiating steps. Perry provided a floor plan for distribution with the meeting minutes.

ADA Hotline/Website

Jane Rivas reported four (4) calls were received during the month of July on the Hotline. Jane was asked to elaborate on the calls received and she took questions and addressed concerns from the Advisory Council members. Marilyn Jost inquired about a press release notifying the public of the ADA Hotline. Ed Eames felt it was now the appropriate time to get the word out.

Stella also reported that the ADA Advisory Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes are posted on the City of Fresno Website.

Roundabout Strategy

Ed reported that the ADA Advisory Council went on record as opposing the installation of “roundabouts” and until there is some assurance of pedestrian safety the opposition would remain. Jon Elam suggested that members of the Advisory Council get on the Planning Commission mailing list in order to become aware of these types of issues when they come about. Jon volunteered to head up such a group. Marilyn Jost, and John Ramirez volunteered to be included in this group. It was suggested that Ed attend a Planning Commission meeting, state his case and submit a letter on the opposition of roundabouts for the record to the Planning Commission. Jon Elam and Ed Eames would work on strategizing this plan.

Curb Cut Issues

Jon Elam reported 30 new curb cuts. The program is continuing to move forward. The City Council did authorize for FY '04 the Transition Plan commitment of 600 curb cuts and appropriated \$660,000 of City funds to install them. That does not include supplemental curb cuts which will be installed by other agencies, such as Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District along the way, etc.

Jon also reported on the latest field trip on the continued installation of curb cuts. Discussion ensued on the correct installation of curb cuts meeting state mandates.

Ed brought up the issue of the diagonal curb cut. The Federal regulations say “where necessary” and then goes on to describe what a diagonal cut is all about. The equivalent City regulations does not use that language. It says; where a major or minor street intersect a diagonal will be tilted toward the minor street. What has occurred is that the City instead of taking the Federal regulations at face value, which literally said you should be putting paired perpendicular all over except where you can't. The curb cuts investigated during the curb cut tours have been found to be out of compliance, not simply on slope but in terms of all of the mandates. What happened here is that the City took the cheap way out in putting in a single ramp instead of the two paired perpendiculars and went ahead and said wherever there is a major and minor intersection we'll just install a diagonal. They disregarded the basic mandate of the Federal Code that just says “where necessary”.

Public Works Amended Transition Plan

Jon Elam indicated the City Attorney finally corrected it in line with the City Council and the ADA Advisory Council recommendations. We now have a completed adopted plan.

Disability Awareness Day

October 15th has been set aside for Disability Awareness Day. Jose Luis Barraza volunteered to chair and organize this activity. John Ramirez and Mary Beth Randall opted to assist Jose on this Committee. Ed stated that MK Medical has offered to provide as many as 15 wheelchairs to be used at this event.

MIG Update

Robyn Kale reported that most of the surveys which needed to be collected are in with only six (6) more to go. Those should be in by early next week. Jon Elam indicated that the next issue would be getting the buildings evaluated. It was suggested a separate executive committee meeting be scheduled to further discuss this issue.

Creation of Executive Committee

Ed Eames addressed the fact that the Advisory group and the issues are becoming larger and running a two hour meeting ten times a year does not really accomplish all that needs to be accomplished, thus it has been decided to develop an Executive Committee to work on various issues in the interim. The following are members of the Executive Committee: Ed Eames, Jose Luis Barraza, Marilyn Jost, John Ramirez, Mary Beth Randall, Vidal Medina, Annette Carter.

ADA Advisory Council Activities Funding

Ed Eames stated that for the first time the Advisory Council has been given an annual budget, which is \$2,000 for this year. Jon Elam would determine what types of out-of-pocket costs would be reimbursed. Receipts for these expenditures go to Jon Elam.

Member Items

- " Jose Luis Barraza announced a demonstration on Tuesday, August 5th, at 12:00 noon in front of Senator Feinstein's Office. The purpose of the demonstration is on the privatization of Medicare.
- " Marilyn Jost wanted to thank the Pacific Garden's Rehab for allowing the use of their bus for the tour of July 24th.
- " Ed Eames mentioned that the Executive Committee is in the process of developing a document for long term strategies and issues which may be ready and available at the next meeting.
- " Marilyn Jost also stated for the record that she and Jose Luis Barraza met with Fresno County Supervisors and discussed the possibility of establishing a similar Advisory Council within the County.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m. The next meeting of the ADA Advisory Council is scheduled for September 19, 2003.